



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 25, 2000

**H.R. 5212  
Veterans' Oral History Project Act**

*As cleared by the Congress on October 17, 2000*

H.R. 5212 would direct the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a program to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans. The act would further require that the collected recordings be made available for public use on the Internet through the National Digital Library and by any other methods deemed appropriate by the Director of the American Folklife Center.

Beyond the \$250,000 authorized by H.R. 5212, the center would have to cover its costs through gifts, donations, and in-kind contributions. Because it is uncertain how much material would need to be collected and how much existing oral history material would need to be digitized, CBO cannot estimate the program's cost and, therefore, the contributions that the library would have to obtain. Based on information from the center regarding the nature of the project, however, we expect the amount of receipts to be insignificant in any given year. Although this act would result in no significant net impact on the federal budget, pay-as-you-go procedures apply because receipts from donations would be categorized as revenues and outlays of such contributions would be direct spending.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Kathleen FitzGerald. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.